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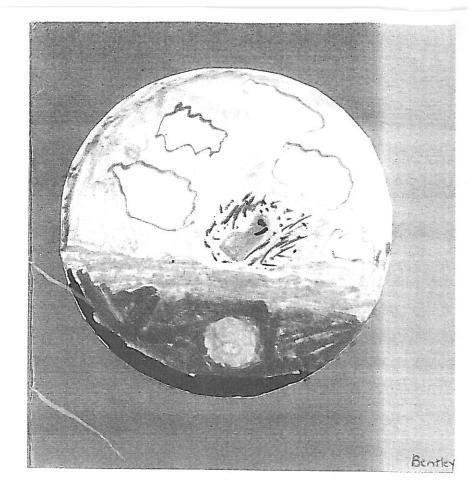
Burlington City Council 149 Church St. Burlington, VT 05401

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Remembering Bentley Artwork & Poem by Bentley Davis Seifer Champlain Elementary School Age 7



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Please accept our

heartfelt thanks for your

kindness & generosity.

Sincerely,

M

Bruce & Julie

BENTLEY DAVIS SEIFER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



Middle school students planting daffodils in the EMS Renaissance Garden: photo by Michael Sheeser

Happy Spring!

April 14, 2013

We are writing to invite you to the dedication of the Bentley Little League Field, on Saturday morning at 9 am, May 4th in the lower field of Calahan Park. The dedication will be part of opening day festivities and you can expect to see hundreds of players and their families descending upon the park. Visit www.burlingtonamerican.com/league/.

Bentley loved to play baseball and was on the All Star team when he died. In lieu of flowers, people were asked to contribute to a memorial bench fund for the upper field in Calahan Park. Donations far exceeded the cost of a bench, inspiring us to create the *Bentley Davis Seifer Foundation*. Since that time, the *Bentley Little League Field* project and 15 others activities were initiated as described in the report below.

Over the past two years, we have been blessed with many opportunities to remember Bentley while struggling to adapt to life without him. We have also been challenged by unexpected losses, family illnesses and Bruce's retirement after 30 years with the City of Burlington. (His book "Sustainable Communities" will be out in August www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415820172.)

We feel especially blessed to have you in our lives, sustaining us with your loving support, gifts, donations, and hundreds of kind gestures. If we have failed to thank you, please accept our apology.

Thanks so much: Jason Lenihan, Kristen Allosso and Jeff Smith of the All Stars and Chittenden County Little League teams for the game dedication; for retiring and framing Bentley's #4 jersey; to the Reds Team for playing a game all dressed in jerseys sporting #7 and showing other symbols of support; to Lori Myers and everyone who brought us meals. Jeff Allen and Susan Hetman for respite by the lake: Ron & Wendi Krisak for the soccer dedication, Gwen Causer for the band video; Michael Monte & Small-heads for the softball game; Peter Miller for the family portrait; Marc & Lois Seifer for the bronze statue; Meri Seifer for Behitley's portrait, James Gribbon for his poem; the BRM for metal ornaments; Steve Lutton for the Snowflake Bentley print; to Tony-Shaw for the Gourd': George Shaw for the guardian, Nina Mazuzan for the photo & snowflake; Karen Hewitt for the Frank Hewitt painting; Chico Lager & Yvette Pidgeon for the seat at the Flynn Theater (S7), Sondra & Yo-Yo for the stained glass piece; Doug Webster for TV show credits, Jim Fogler of the Burlington Free Press, Bob Davis of WCAX; Carl Adams, Jennifer Green, Mannie Lionni, Susie Arnold and those who offered us respites around the world; those who sent poetry, made snowflakes and mittens, mowed the lawn, shoveled, offered painted stones, snowflake treasures, left notes under the tree, Easter eggs, ornaments, photos, cards, books, and to all our young friends for warming us with their visits.

For your amazing time and energy, thank you Gerry Ghazi, John Collins, Sherrill Musty, Hollis Hope, David Davis, Corinne Davis, Mags & Steve Conant, Gwen Causer, Ritchie White, Jim Eddy, Ed Granai, Mark Kolter, Ray Jacoby, Brian Pine, Warren Spinner, Deryk Roach, Annie Harlow, Zeb Browne, Meri Keithley & Marc Seifer, Holly Jeffers, Denise Girard, Kathy Longe, Sandra & Johannes Sontag, Margaret Joyal, Linda Jones & Mark Stephenson, Linda Shiller, Dan Davis, Steve Chamberlain, Noni Stuart, Lanny Watts, Pam Martin, the late Hilde Betts and Bentley's special camping friends: Rocky Martin & Cheryl Eichen.

We look forward to seeing you at the dedication May 4th, on Opening Day of the Little League.

Frehe + Bruce

BENTLEY DAVIS SEIFER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION REPORT

(This update is also posted at www.facebook.com/pages/RIP-Bentley-Seifer/219124334789489.)

The Bentley Davis Seifer Foundation (BDS) was designed to support projects and activities that Bentley enjoyed during his short lifetime. Bentley had what he called a "good, lucky life". These projects were to give other children the opportunity to experience that same feeling. The \$30,000 in foundation funds received leveraged another \$150,000 cash donations (not including in-kind support) and inspired the following donations and activities.

1) The Bentley Little League Field project was conceived by the Burlington American Little League when players were feeling the loss of their teammate. Jeff Smith, President of B.A.L.L. initiated the project with other volunteers from the little league community and in partnership with the Burlington Parks & Recreation Department. The idea was to renovate a field used for minor league players and name it after Bentley. Seen from Bentley's bedroom window, the field had just a couple of old benches, a small set of aging bleachers, and a poorly drained infield. Practice and play time were often cancelled because of the wet field and limited shelter for the team. This project seemed a good fit for remembering Bentley as he ranked baseball as his number one sport. When asked, why baseball and not soccer, Bentley thought for some time and in classic Bentley speak, said simply, "dugouts."

The plan was embraced under the leadership of former Director, Mari Steinbach who applied for the permit with a commitment of \$8,000 in Penny for Parks. Jeff Padgett and the staff of *Trudell Consulting* donated the entire engineering plan. Several large donors allowed construction to begin including a donor who chose to remain anonymous. Over \$75,000 has been raised as the project nears completion with the help of hundreds of individual donations from the community.

Last fall, a drainage system, water line, and two feet of top soil was installed. Construction of the dugouts began earlier this spring with volunteer labor from *Resource's Youthbuild* and a \$5,000 donation from the *North Country Federal Credit Union*. Coming up next is the installation of the water fountain, the scoreboard, the fencing, the backstop, electricity and landscaping with in-kind and cash donations for plumbing, electrical and carpentry. Weather permitting; the project should be close to complete on opening day. Visit www.burlingtonamerican.com/league/photo_albums.php.

Special thanks to the Jeff Smith, Jason Lenihan, Clare Wool, Dave Ackerman, Tom Freiheit, Wylie Rahill, Brian Pine, Austin Pine, Dave Wark, Excavator Matthew Karlin, Chris Haggerty of Professional Land Surveyors, Tom Longstreth, Andrew Jope, Brian Hsiang & Donal Dugan of Resource's YouthBuild: former Mayor Bob Kiss & former Director Mari Steinbach; Mayor Miro Weinburger, Director Jesse Bridges; Deryk Roach, Jen Francis, Warren Spinner, Todd Greenough, Rob Barrett, Chris Beaudry and Kurt Hawkins of Parks & Rec.; Alex Silberman, Ray Jacoby & Tony & Sheila Shaw.

We very much appreciate the significant financial support or in-kind services of the Vt. Community Foundation Freeman Foundation Fund & the Richard & Amy Tarrant Foundation Fund, Burlington Parks & Rec Dept., North Country Federal Credit Union, Trudell Consulting, Scott Hammond & Lisa Steele, Gannett Foundation, Mark Stephenson, Vt. Energy & Contracting Supply Co., Jasmin Pobric, J.P. Electrical, and Hawk Creek Fence Co.

2) Baseball & Soccer Benches: The benches we chose to remember Bentley were selected for their durability, character and versatility. Made with reclaimed wood from the Coney Island boardwalk, they are made with cement legs—safe enough for children to play with abandon. One bench was placed in "our spot" next to the home dugout. Since Bentley also loved soccer, two identical benches were placed in the upper field. The benches are adorned with engraved BDS snowflake symbols, a poem written by Bentley, and plaques that list 50 activities Bentley enjoyed with friends in the park. A dedication for the benches was held in the spring of 2012 when hundreds of friends and family turned out for lemonade and cupcakes. We were awed by the courage of young friends speaking from the podium including Walker McClelland, George Shaw, Charlie Myers, Oliver Marchildon, Phin Totten and others. Other compelling thoughts were shared by Mari Steinbach, Rachel Stampul, Corinne Davis, and Steve Schnepps. We are grateful to Howard Seifer who took an excellent video of this event, and also one of baby foxes playing in the cemetery. Visit www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10150922097125902

Special thanks also to Yangchen & Jim Kelly, Michelle Kupersmith, Bruce Bierbaum, Howard Seifer, Bruce MacDonald, Lyn Severance, Doug Thayer, and volunteers including Deryk Roach, Warren Spinner, Chris Beaudry, Todd Greenough, Rob Barrett, and Kurt Hawkins.

3) South End Kids Art Hop: One of Bentley's favorite events was the annual South End Art Hop at the Julie A. Davis Studio. Bentley made work to exhibit, hopped around to visit the sites and spent time in the loft of the studio with his friends. In 2011, the SEAH Board dedicated the hop to Bentley. This inspired Bentley's art teacher to create a kids art hop in the Champlain Elementary School cafeteria. She was assisted by the Champlain PTO and many other volunteers. The "Kids Hop" included an exhibit of artwork by Bentley, CES students and other young people who had a chance to win one of three "Bentley" cash awards. It attracted hundreds of visitors who enjoyed the art, refreshments and live music by David Davis of *Ravestar* and the *Bakesale Hotties*. The Kids Hop also inspired the creation of two art hop dedication posters distributed to hundreds of people at the hop. Ali Marchildon assisted with the kids hop efforts and created a stunning batik banner called "*Remembering Bentley*."

Special thanks to Principal Leslie Columb, Jen Peck, CES PTO members & Jessica Oski, Ravestar & the Bakesale Hotties, City Market, Lake Champtain Chocolates, Ted Castle and Rhino Foods, Maea Brandt, Gwen & Ella Causer, Ali & Greg Marchildon, Tony Shaw, Sherrill Musty, Holly Jeffers, Wes Black, Mags Conant, Corinne Davis, Lyle Johnson, Julie Hegle, Holly Hurewitz, Richard Donnelly, and the CES Staff.

4) Kid-Inspired Activities: Some projects were initiated by others and seeded by the foundation; others were initiated and provided funds to the foundation. For example, Bentley's friends created an Art Hop t-shirt at the City Arts print shop using an image Bentley created in second grade. The boys were able to raise over \$500 to benefit the BDS Foundation and with the help of Tony Shaw distributed over 200 t-shirts to the community. Another group of middle school students in Massachusetts designed produced and sold t-shirts in their community as well. Artist Lisa Lillibridge also raised funds for the foundation by selling artwork with friends at her studio. Ten-year-old neighbor Henry Hood taught us all a lesson in altruism when he asked for cash instead of gifts for his birthday, and raised \$200!. Visit www.facebook.com/pages/RIP-Bentley-Seifer/219124.334789489.

Special thanks to Henry Severance, Bill Harvey & Lyn Severance. George & Tony Shaw, Schuyler & Spencer MacDonald, Amalgamated Culture Works , George of City Arts Print Shop, Emily Dennis & friends, Lisa Lillibridge & friends, Henry Hood & birthday invitees.

5) Edmunds Renaissance Garden: Bentley enjoyed a large community of friends and classmates at Edmunds Middle School where another project was conceived to involve kids in improving the Renaissance Garden area of the school grounds. Teacher Gina Farineau and Horticulturist Annie Harlow worked together to create a special class for the *Healthy Living Enrichment class* to have students learn about the importance of gardens and public spaces. The three classes were conducted outside and students learned how to prepare soil, prune, rake and groom gardens. The entire school was invited to participate in an after school event where Annie Harlow beamed with smiles as she assisted 100 middle school students in the planting of over 400 daffodil bulbs. A hand-inscribed stone was donated by Izzie Halpern and her dad Aiex, a "tree-lilac" replaced a dying maple tree, the crumbling sidewalk was rebuilt, and a bench by the bus stop was installed.

Special thanks to Jesse Beck of Freeman French Freeman, Joel Fitzgerald. Annie Harlow, Gina Farineau, Gwen & Ella Causer, Warren Spinner, Meredith Hoisington, Jessica Nordhaus & Michael Sheeser, CCTA, Public Works, Superintendant Jeanne Collins, Asst. Super. Terry Bailey of the Burlington School Depart, Principal Bonnie Johnson-Aten, Asst. Principal Jeff Tobroke, and all the heart-filled kids who stayed to plant the bulbs, and read Bentley's poetry to dedicate the tree including Jonas Lobe, George Shaw, Oliver Marchildon, Spencer & Sky MacDonald, Charlie Myers, Elfa Causer and Izzie Halbern.

6) Water Safety Campaign: Bentley was cautious by nature but not enough to protect him from deceptive currents at Bolton Potholes. This project was initiated by the BDS foundation to help warn families of the risks involved in swimming in natural areas. A committee of attorneys, marketing professionals and state agencies representatives has been meeting regularly for over a year to determine the opportunities for prevention. The committee plans to launch a statewide education campaign before the 2013 Memorial Day and Independence Day holidays. The committee has involved the Vermont River Conservancy and four state entities: the Department of Health, the Agency of Natural Resources, Forests, Parks & Recreation and the Department of Environmental Conservation. At the urging of the Halladay family, the local YMCA has also been educating children about water safety and swimming holes. Visit www.vermontriverconservancy.org/about-vermont-river-conservancy/brochure/our-pursuits/ and www.vermontriverconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/Project-Summary-2012.pdf.

Special thanks to attorneys Mark Kolter, Ken Schatz and Brian Dunkiel, marketing professionals Steve Crafts of Place Creative, Pat Heffeman of Marketing Partners, friend and colleague Jennifer Green, Dr. Harry Chen, Commissioner of the Depart. Of Health; Frank Spaulding, Leila Larosa, Neil Kamman, Andrew Chevrefils, and Robert Stirewalt.

7) Calahan Park Improvements: Bentley spent a good part of his life in Calahan Park. He played team sports, and also enjoyed climbing trees, building forts, going sledding, shooting off rockets, chasing squirrels, collecting rocks and catching butterflies. Bentley's connection to the park inspired us to work to make improvements for the next generation of kids. These include burying electric lines, planting shade trees, adding top soil to the upper soccer field and installing a new picnic table. Landscape Architect Peter Hudson provided assistance to the *Parks & Rec Department* for the planning of the project and both Parks & Rec and the Burlington Electric Department provided funding and donated staff time to bury the lines.

Special thanks to Barbara Grimes, Mary Sullivan, and Andy Naughton of BED, Architect Peter Hudson, Engineering Ventures, Barrett's Trucking, and Parks & Rec staff Director Mari Steinbach, Deryk Roach, Warren Spinner and Chris Beaudry

8) Tree Planting at Champlain Elementary School: A "Celebration Maple" tree was donated to the school completing a semi-circle of trees that surrounds the playground. We've learned that Bentley connected with people everywhere and had many fans among younger students from his time spent as a book buddy and in the after school program at CES. In honor of his more diverse relationships, a donation was made to the school to support all the wonderful work at Champlain including the Book Buddy program, arts, music, and athletics.

Special thanks to City Arborist Warren Spinner and assistant Brian Sullivan, Principal Leslie Columb, Karen Prouty, School Counselor and EMS teacher Colleen Cowell.

9) Edmunds Middle School Cabaret: Bentley had a musical ear and excelled in the band after only one year playing the alto saxophone. The class held their own ceremony to remember Bentley by sharing stories and distributing boxes of his unused saxophone reeds. Each year the band program hosts an event at the school to raise funds for those who cannot afford to rent band instruments. The BDS Foundation provided a one time donation to Band Director Tim Buckingham and the annual cabaret to help with these efforts. The funding of the project was inspired by all of Bentley's friends who loved music including George Shaw, Schuyler MacDonald, Ella Causer, Madeline Khamnei, Malin Hillemann, Oliver Marchildon, Jonas Lobe, and Rowan Caldwell. Visit www.facebook.com/pages/Edmunds-Middle-School-Band/376606769094393.

Special thanks to the Edmunds PTO, Band Director Tim Buckingham, Gwen & Ella Causer and all of Bentley's friends in the band.

10) Spreading Daffodils: Bentley spent a lot of time helping his dad garden in the backyard and he loved seeing the flowers bloom in the spring. Over 1,000 bulbs were offered to friends and neighbors to plant daffodils as a positive sign of hope and renewal. They were planted in a garden in Calahan Park and Champlain Elementary School and in over 53 neighborhood gardens in Burlington and elsewhere. Visit www.facebook.com/pages/RIP-Bentley-Seifer/219124334789489.

Special thanks to Devin Keithley, Matt Hayden's 4th-5th grade class at CES, Nina & Zack Mazuzan, and all the people who collected builbs to plant around the neighborhood.

11) Young Writers Project (YWP): Bentley expressed a deeply sensitive side of his nature through poetry. A donation to the Young Writer's Project was gifted after friend Charlie Myers was chosen to be included in the YWP awards ceremony. The essay demonstrated an adult understanding of the grief process and helped us recognize that kids find their own way to grieve alone. Other friends also inspired this donation including Oliver Marchildon, Izzie Halpern, J.W. and many others who took the time to make things or share their thoughts with us on life and death. We are also proud to note that three of Bentley's poems were chosen to be included in the Goose River Anthology (Goose River Press, 2012). Visit www.youngwritersproject.org/node/76168, /76169 and www.vpr.net/episode/52976/on-hill/.

Special thanks to CES teachers Matt Hayden, Ms. Storer, Ms. Gregory, EMS teacher Kathy Gallagher, Charlie Myers, Lori Myers, Susan Reid of the Young Writer's Project, Lois & Marc Seifer.

12) Elementary School Art Awards: Bentley was often recognized by his teachers in elementary school for his artistic sensibility. This project was initiated by the foundation. It was implemented by Burlington City Arts with assistance of Jen Peck of CES who often singled out Bentley's work for recognition. A donation was provided for Burlington City Arts to award twelve cash prizes annually to elementary students for a period of five years. The prizes will be awarded to two children from each of the six elementary schools in Burlington to help promote a lifelong interest in art.

Visit www.burlingtoncityarts.org/BCACommunity/Event.aspx?r=March%2012&id=10416.

Special thanks to Jen Peck of Champlain Elementary School, BCA Director, Doreen Kraft, and staff Melissa Steady and Gretchen Farrar, and the art teachers and administrators from all six of the Burlington Elementary Schools.

13) Software Alliance STEAM Awards: Bentley loved to engage in engineering projects and was an excellent math and science student. After he participated in a national STEAM related conference in Burlington featuring kids comedian Paul Zaloom, members of the Vermont Software Developers Alliance (VtSDA) were inspired to create a suite of awards that would encourage children to become engaged in STEAM subjects (science, technology, engineering, arts and math). The awards were designed to inspire schools from around the state to submit innovative, hands-on projects that engage kids. Both cash awards and iPADS were provided to 21 projects in nineteen schools around the state, positively impacting the education of hundreds of students. The vtSDA plans to have one more round of awards distributed this coming year. Visit www.vtsda.org/about/thebentleyaward/.

Special thanks to President John Canning, Physicians Computer Company, Tom Jaros, EPSCoR, Smalldog Electronics, Cheryl Eichen, and Apple Computer, and Apple Computer employees who also contributed on an individual basis.

- 14) Art from the Heart Award: Bentley was kind and caring and demonstrated great empathy for others. He also spent many hours at home over the years nursing injuries and fighting numerous respiratory infections. A one-time donation was provided to assist the Art from the Heart program. The program provides healing art projects for children admitted to the pediatric unit of Fletcher Allen Health Care where Bentley's former pre-school teacher Jen Eddy serves children. Visit www.burlingtoncityarts.org/Art_From_The_Heart/.
- 15) Lakeview Cemetery Fountain: Lakeview.Cemetery on North Avenue is a spiritual oasis in the city between the high school and Burlington College. The Friends of Lakeview Cemetery have worked on numerous restoration projects and were provided a donation from the BDS Foundation to help in their most recent effort to renovate an historic fountain. Constructed in the 1800's, the fountain is located near the site where Bentley is buried (Section J). The cemetery was also improved by the installation of a donated bench with assistance from Jeff Shed and Woody, Conant Light & Metal and the Cheryl Eichen & Rocky Martin family of Hinesburg. Visit www.enjoyburlington.com/Cemeteries/RestorationProjects.cfm.

Special thanks to Will & Lynette Raap, Gardener's Supply Co., Jeff Shed of Lakeview Cemetery, Cheryl Eichen & Lee, Curtis and Rocky Martin, Steve & Mags Conant, Conant Metal & Light, and Jane Ewing, President of Friends of Lakeview Cemetery.

16) Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports Program: After a rocky start, Bentley excelled at skiing and never tired of time spent in the mountains. This gift was inspired by all of Bentley's ski buddies. A ski race and one-time donation is being planned for the Vermont Adaptive Ski Program that recognizes Bentley's love of skiing and compassion for those less athletically able. Visit www.vtadaptive.org. Special thanks to the MacDonald family, and John, Taylor and Mary Collins.

A very special thanks to John Collins of Collins, McMahon & Harris of Burlington, Gerry Ghazi, Kathy Longe, Mary Collins, Hollis Hope, Sherrill Musty & Cheryl Eichen for help in managing and promoting the foundation.

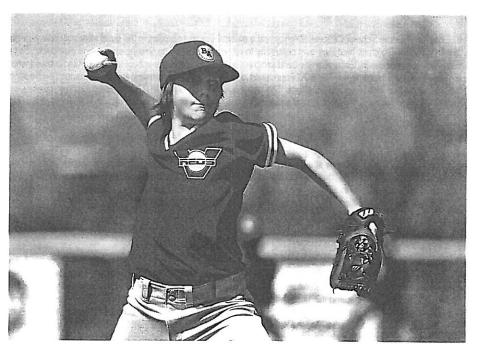


Photo by Ed Wolfstein

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BENTLEY DAVIS SEIFER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION & THE BENTLEY LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD



Friends selling Bentley t-shirts at the South End Kids Art Hop: Champlain Elementary School 2011

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The Hope Charity

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Diana Carminati & Roz Grossman

Douglas & Miriam B. French